

Relation of Commonwealth to Immigration; and Assistance that may be arranged with the States. Resolved: That this Conference has received with gratification the intimation made by the Commonwealth Government of its readiness to contribute a sum of £150,000 per annum to further the interests of immigration. Having regard to the various matters of policy, which will require to be considered in detail, the Conference agrees that the matter should form the subject of correspondence between the States, initiated by the Premier of New South Wales, as to the lines which should be adopted to allocate a definite function to the Commonwealth, as desired by the Prime Minister.

Medical Inspection of Immigrants. Resolved: That this Conference is of opinion that the regulations relating to the medical inspection under the Immigration Acts 1901-12, as proposed by the Commonwealth Government, will operate to impede the work of recruiting immigrants in Great Britain and elsewhere, and strongly urges that they should be modified in the directions which have been recommended by the Agents-General in consultation with States' emigration representatives in England; with the additional safeguard of a more rigorous examination of passengers at the port of embarkation by medical referees, to be appointed by the Commonwealth Health Bureau in Great Britain.

Duty on Imported Superphosphates. Resolved: That, whilst sympathising with the views of the South Australian representatives, this Conference feels that the question raised is one purely for the consideration of the Federal Parliament.

Treasurers' Conference—Date of Meeting. Resolved: That the convening of a conference of State Treasurers as early as possible be entrusted to the Premier of New South Wales.

2. Murray River Waters Conference.—On the occasion of the Premiers' Conference referred to above, the Premiers of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, together with the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, entered into the following agreement relative to the Murray River Waters. (See also p. 510.)

Resolutions agreed to by the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Premiers of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia:— With a view to the economical use of waters of the River Murray and its tributaries, for irrigation and navigation, and to the reconciling of the interest of the Commonwealth and the riparian States, it is resolved that an agreement between the Commonwealth and States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia (herein called "this Agreement") be entered into, providing:—

(i.) That a system of storages be provided at Cumberoona or some other suitable site on the Upper Murray and at Lake Victoria, and that weirs and locks be constructed in the course of the River Murray from its mouth to Echuca; in the River Murrumbidgee from its junction with the River Murray to Hay, or alternatively to works in the River Murrumbidgee, an equivalent extent of weirs and locks in the River Darling, extending upstream from its junction with the River Murray.

(ii.) That the cost of the undermentioned works required to give effect to Resolution (i.), and estimated as follows:—

Nine weirs and locks from Blanchetown to Wentworth	...	£865,000
Seventeen weirs and locks from Wentworth to Echuca	...	1,700,000
Nine weirs and locks from the junction of the Rivers Murray and Murrumbidgee to Hay, or alternately an equivalent amount (£540,000) in locks and weirs from the junction of the River Darling with the River Murray upstream	...	540,000
Upper Murray storage	1,353,000
Lake Victoria storage	205,000
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		£4,663,000
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be borne to the extent of £1,000,000 by the Commonwealth, and as to the remainder in equal shares by the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

(iii.) That, if so desired by the State of New South Wales, there shall be substituted for the proposed weirs and locks in the River Murrumbidgee locks and weirs to the same estimated cost in the River Darling upstream from its junction with the River Murray.

(iv.) That the flow of the River Murray at Albury, including the natural or regulated flow of the Rivers Mitta and Kiewa, and as regulated by the Cumberoona storage, be shared equally by New South Wales and Victoria, subject to any quantity hereby agreed to be sent down the river for riparian use and for supply to South Australia.

(v.) That New South Wales and Victoria each have full use of her own tributaries below Albury, and have the right to store and divert the flows thereof, or alternatively, equivalent volumes from the River Murray below their affluences subject to provision from such tributaries, or her share of the flow at Albury, or both, of contributions towards the share hereby allotted to South Australia, and the allowance for riparian use on the main stream from the affluence of such tributary, or from Albury to Lake Victoria.

(vi.) That the proportion of the contribution by New South Wales and Victoria to the share hereby allotted to South Australia, and for riparian use in the main stream, be that which the mean natural flow of the tributaries of each State below Albury measured at the points of affluence with the River Murray, with half the actual mean flow at Albury added in each case bear to each other. In calculating the mean flow of the River Darling for this purpose a deduction shall be made to the extent of any water diverted by the State of Queensland.

(vii.) That the minimum quantity to be allowed to pass to South Australia in each year be sufficient to fill Lake Victoria storage once, and in addition to maintain, with the aid of the water returned from Lake Victoria, a regulated supply at Lake Victoria outlet of 134,000 acre feet per month during the months of January, February, November, and December; 114,000 acre feet per month for the months of March, September, and October; 94,000 acre feet per month for the months of April, May, and August, and 47,000 acre feet per month for the months of June and July, these being the provisions for irrigation equivalent to a regulated supply of 67,000 acre feet per month for nine months, and for domestic and stock supply, losses by evaporation and percolation in Lake Victoria, like losses and lockage in the river from Lake Victoria to the river mouth (but not including Lakes Alexandrina and Albert). Provided that these allowances and the allowance to the upstream States be reduced *pro rata* in such abnormal seasons as those of 1902 and 1903.

(viii.) That after the utilization by South Australia for irrigation of the volumes set forth in Resolution (vii.), or after the utilization by New South Wales and Victoria of 1,957,000 and 2,219,000 acre feet per annum respectively, whichever may first happen, a further volume may be allotted out of any surplus over the above specified allotments to the State of New South Wales, Victoria or South Australia, as the case may be, such further volumes to be determined by the Commission provided for herein.

(ix.) That the agreement entered into between the Premiers of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, dated the 12th day of January, 1912, respecting storage works at Lake Victoria and certain works in, on, and near the River Murray, be confirmed, subject, however, to the modifications arising out of this agreement.

(x.) That the cost of any works jointly constructed by the States of New South Wales and Victoria in the River Murray above Echuca, for the purpose of diversion of water allotted to them under this agreement, shall be borne by the States of New South Wales and Victoria in proportion to the volume of water proposed to be diverted into each of said States by such works.

(xi.) That a Commission of four members to be called the River Murray Commission be appointed immediately after the ratifying of this agreement by the Commonwealth and States Parliaments concerned, one commissioner to be appointed by the Governor-General of Australia, one by the Governor of New South Wales, one by the Governor of Victoria, and one by the Governor of South Australia. The Commission shall carry into effect the provisions of this Agreement.

(xii.) That the works provided for in Resolution (ii.) be constructed by the State of South Australia from Blanchetown to Wentworth, by the State of New South Wales on the Murrumbidgee or Darling, as the case may be, and by the States of New South Wales and Victoria on the River Murray, under the direction of the Commission provided for herein and subject to the approval of all designs by the said Commission.

(xiii.) That the construction of the works mentioned in Resolution (ii.) of this agreement shall be commenced by each of the States, as provided in Resolution (xii.), as soon as may be after the ratification of this agreement by the Parliaments of the Commonwealth and the States respectively, and vigorously proceeded with until completion.

(xiv.) And that this agreement be submitted for ratification to the Parliaments of the Commonwealth and the States respectively during the next sessions of the said respective Parliaments, and is subject to such ratification.

3. Treasurers' Conference.—In accordance with the resolution passed by the Premiers' Conference previously referred to, a meeting of State Treasurers was held in Melbourne in May 1914. With reference to the question of the Commonwealth Bank in relation to the States Savings Banks, the following resolution was carried, and subsequently accepted by the Prime Minister on behalf of the Commonwealth :—

Resolved : That with a view to the termination of the present competition of the Savings Banks of the Commonwealth and of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia, on a date to be determined as hereinafter proposed, the following proposals be submitted to the Commonwealth Government :—

- (1) With respect to the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, there be transferred to the Commonwealth Bank a share equal to at least 60 per cent. of the current banking accounts of such States at the expiration of the period necessary for the termination of present agreements, this share of the banking business to include a proportionate part of the exchange business, both interstate and London. The remaining 40 per cent. of such business to be transferred upon the Commonwealth Bank undertaking 10 per cent. of the underwriting of new loan flotations if required to do so, and making satisfactory provision for the discharge of the business of the States, in all parts of the States, on terms and conditions as favourable as those existing at present.
- (2) With respect to the four States before named, there be continued with the Commonwealth Bank as fixed deposits, for a period of ten years or a shorter period at the option of the Commonwealth, from the date of the withdrawal of the Commonwealth from Savings Bank business, and thereafter, as mutually agreed upon between the Commonwealth and the individual States, a sum equivalent to the sum held by the Commonwealth Bank as Savings Bank deposits at such date. The interest payable on such deposits by the Commonwealth Bank to each of the respective States to be the interest paid by each State, plus the average working expenses of the Savings Bank of such State.